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SUBJ/PUBLIC AFFAIRS-NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (NSMN) (94-16)//
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2. HEADLINES AND GENERAL INTEREST STORIES THIS WEEK:
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(940124)-TRICARE for Millington, TN, Announced
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(940131)-MC Among Firsts for Asian/Pacific Americans (para 4)

HEADLINE: President Speaks at a Salute to Nurses
ANA/AONE Washington (NSMN) -- President William Clinton
spoke to a prestigious gathering of nearly 400 nurses sponsored
by the American Nurses Association and the American Organization
of Nurse Executives. RADM Mariann Stratton, NC, director of the
Navy Nurse Corps, was among the 16 nurses honored at "A Salute to
Nurses in Congress and the Executive Branch" in Washington on 10
May.

The breakfast meeting was held to honor the achievements of
nurses working within Congress and the Executive Branch. "Until
recently, service at the highest levels of government has been a
rare feat for our profession. Your pioneering efforts deserve
acknowledgement during National Nurses Week," said ANA President
Virginia Trotter Betts to the honorees. "Nurses who shape and
influence public policy are poised to effect tremendous change
for the good of the nation. ANA admires the strengths you have
exhibited Your leadership in this highly visible station
fosters dignity, status and respect for the entire nursing
profession."

During the salute, the ANA announced that it was establishing a \$40,000 endowed research fund for beginning nurse researchers investigating in the area of women's health care in memory of the President's mother, Virginia Kelley, who was a nurse anesthetist for 35 years.

Guest speaker President Clinton thanked the ANA for the recognition of his mother, who taught him that "nothing is more important than caring for and easing pain and suffering."

Clinton said that his mother had described her work as a nurse anesthetist as all consuming. "The patient is placed in a state of unconsciousness between life and death," he recalled her saying, "nothing else, in the world around you or in your personal life, matters."

"Nurses," said Trotter Betts, "are the key to maintaining health care quality." They are not only front line providers -- both illness and wellness providers, she said, but are prepared and deserve a place at the policy table.

Clinton told the nurses that "members of Congress want to do the right thing; they just don't know what you know about the system." While Congress may be unclear as to what nurses "know about the system," there is no doubt of their importance in providing quality, cost-effective care.

"The quality of care is directly related to the availability of nursing care," said Clinton. "Nursing care is directly related to shorter hospitalizations, less complications and better outcomes for the patients."

The President outlined his plan for health care reform -- "a mind-bending, complex issue" -- as not being government run, but a system of private insurance for everyone, needing to cover the 81 million people with pre-existing conditions who are unable to get health insurance, and preserving Medicare. He also spoke of the need to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, saying, "We know that proper drug regime can keep people out of the hospital."

Trotter Betts also talked of keeping people out of the hospital through primary care, wellness programs, prevention and early care. For every dollar spent on prevention, she said, \$4 are saved on illness care.

But whether in the hospital or as out patients, both the President and the ANA are working toward the same goal: "universal access to quality care."

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HEADLINE: Hospitalman Recruit Awarded Medal for Heroic Actions
NAVHOSP Millington, TN (NSMN) -- In a ceremony 28 April at Naval Hospital Millington, HR Raymond K. Goodwin was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal by his commanding officer, CAPT M.A. Blome, MSC.

Goodwin received this medal for his unselfish and heroic acts on 17 January 1994, while stationed at Field Medical Service School, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA. Commanding MajGen B.D. Lynch, USMC, cited Goodwin's heroic actions during the earthquake that devastated the Northridge area of Los Angeles. More than a dozen people were killed when the earthquake caused

an apartment complex to collapse.

Goodwin was in the complex at the time. He woke to rumbling sounds and shaking furniture. He and his girlfriend escaped from the first-floor apartment by jumping through a glass window. Goodwin had paused just long enough to grab his combat boots. After his escape, he worked through the morning, helping people to safety. He was clad only in boots, boxer shorts and a t-shirt, and had glass embedded in both feet, his left leg, waist and arms.

To save a husband and wife trapped under the headboard of their bed, he shattered a second window. The couple was among the few first-floor survivors. Goodwin also assisted people from the second and third floors to safety in the courtyard. Rescue efforts were complicated by falling debris caused by aftershocks every 15-30 minutes.

Throughout the ordeal, read the citation, Goodwin "displayed dedication, compassion and resourcefulness in his actions."

Goodwin believes he was one of the few first-floor survivors "because God was looking out for me."

Story by HN Allison J. Dunbar

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HEADLINE: TRICARE for Millington, TN, Announced

BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- The Department of the Navy announced Tuesday, 10 May, that it will institute TRICARE in the greater Millington area over the next three years in order to better meet the future health care needs of the area's military beneficiaries.

The plan calls for Naval Hospital Millington to transition to a Naval Medical Clinic, providing ambulatory care. Inpatient services, as well as some outpatient care, will be provided under an improved TRICARE benefit structure that will replace the existing Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). TRICARE will augment the military treatment facilities with private sector health care.

Navy officials expect the Millington-area TRICARE initiative to be fully operational by the spring of 1996. Once established, inpatient services will be phased into a civilian health care network under the TRICARE managed care support contract.

By March 1997, all inpatient care services will transition from the naval hospital to the local civilian medical community. Outpatient services, including pharmacy, will be relocated to the Naval Medical Clinic on the Naval Air Station.

As part of a nationwide Department of Defense initiative, TRICARE is designed to provide consistent quality health care and billing procedures among the military services and to improve access to care. The realignment will result in a "seamless" military health care delivery system.

The TRICARE benefit package will offer a triple option of health care services to include a health maintenance organization (HMO), a preferred provider organization (PPO) and the traditional standard CHAMPUS plan.

The TRICARE partnership between the military and the local medical community will continue the high quality health care

services active duty military members, their families, and retirees expect, while improving accessibility and ensuring that medical services are delivered in the most cost-effective manner.

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HEADLINE: NMC Oakland Enters Labor-Management Partnership

NMC Oakland, CA (NSMN) -- In a historic agreement, Naval Medical Center Oakland, AFGE Local 1931 and IBEW 2297 formed the Labor Management Partnership Council (LMPC) on 21 April 1994.

Following President Clinton's Executive Order 12871 of 1 October 1993, the three parties began work developing this unprecedented relationship. The concept of the LMPC is to have labor and management work together to mutually identify and resolve issues of concern.

Four people from each of the partners will form the council, which will meet monthly at the discretion of the chair. The chair position will be rotated among the partners on a quarterly basis.

"This is the largest hospital the Navy has ever attempted to close," said RADM Frederic G. Sanford, MC, Naval Medical Center Oakland's commander. "This agreement is just what is needed to facilitate the Navy's efforts to close this facility successfully."

The medical center is scheduled to stop seeing patients in April 1996, with complete operational closure by September 1996.

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HEADLINE: Coping with Closure: Sunset to Sunrise

NAVHOSP Orlando, FL (NSMN) -- The closing of Naval Hospital Orlando -- and other facilities across the country -- represents a major life change for all of us.

While BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) meetings and briefings focus on the future of the facilities' buildings, equipment, billets and the like, the closure process evokes personal reactions.

As with any major life change, it can be difficult, especially when that change is viewed as taking away something you value. This can be a stressful time. For some, this period of transition provides a challenge, an opportunity to grow, and to move on. For others, this change represents an inconvenience, such as an additional PCS move. Still for others, this is a major loss of financial and job security as well as a way of life.

In acknowledgment of the diverse range of emotions in dealing with closure, a team of representatives from Naval Hospital Orlando's Staff Education and Training, Pastoral Care, Wellness Clinic, Mental Health and Family Service Center/CAAC have developed a four-hour seminar, "Coping with Closure: Sunset to Sunrise." Using puppets, vignettes from the last episode of M*A*S*H and group discussion, the workshop provides an outlet for staff to express their feelings related to closure while deliberating stages of change, stress management and discussion of resources available to assist staff with closure.

As closure becomes more of a reality at Naval Hospital

Orlando, it's important to us that no one feels alone in this process, because our personnel are our most important resource and, together, we will see this through.

For more information about Coping with Closure: Sunset to Sunrise, contact the hospital's Staff Education and Training Department at (407) 643-2633, DSN 791-2633.

Story by LT Elise J. Mammino, MSC, head, Staff Education and Training

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HEADLINE: Navy Researchers Develop Improved Hearing Protector
NMRDC Bethesda, MD (NSMN) -- Hearing loss from exposure to hazardous noise is a major health problem in some military working environments. In 1992, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported 60,476 hearing loss compensation cases with associated compensation costs of more than \$230 million. In addition, the Navy paid nearly \$8 million in compensation in the same year for 2,560 civilian cases of hearing loss.

To improve hearing conservation, researchers at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Pensacola, FL, are developing a new hearing protector. Unlike more expensive prototypes being developed by the other services that use electronics, this hearing protector is designed on the principle that sound pressure waves will not propagate through a vacuum.

This Navy-designed hearing protector consists of ear cups with a vacuum space sandwiched between two layers of material. A major challenge in the development of this hearing protector prototype was designing a gasket that would not transfer sound energy to the wearer as vibrations. After testing many commercially available materials that proved unsatisfactory, Navy researchers formulated a special gasket material with excellent noise reduction capabilities. A patent has been filed on the material, and several private industries have expressed interest in licensing the technology.

In 1995, the goal of researchers is to incorporate a communications speaker in the hearing protector for use in operational environments. In many operational settings, double hearing protection (plugs and muffs) is required, which interferes with communication devices. If future testing of the prototype hearing protector confirms the expected noise reduction, the use of double hearing protection could be discontinued.

Story by Naval Medical Research and Development Command

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HEADLINE: HEALTHWATCH: Noise-induced Hearing Loss is Gradual
USNH Yokosuka, Japan (NSMN) -- Noise is any harmful, disturbing or unwanted sound. Without proper precaution, naval personnel are at great risk of developing significant noise-induced hearing loss.

Basically, there are three parts of the ear -- the outer ear, middle ear and inner ear. The outer ear directs sound waves to the middle and inner ear; the middle ear sends sound to and protects the inner ear and equalizes pressure on the eardrum; the

inner ear changes mechanical energy to nerve energy and transmits it to the brain.

Thousands of nerve cells contained in the inner ear can be permanently destroyed by loud noise. Hearing problems in the outer and middle ears are usually medically treatable. But, there is no known cure for noise-induced hearing loss in the inner ear.

Noise can be measured during a routine noise survey with a sound level meter. The Navy has determined that sound levels measured at 85 decibels or greater are considered hazardous to your hearing. Personnel exposed to hazardous noise are required to wear hearing protection.

What many people do not realize is that noise-induced hearing loss can present itself gradually, over a period of years, with no physical signs or pain. Gradually, one may notice a reduction in the ability to hear speech sounds. Commonly, when a person begins to notice difficulty in understanding speech, he or she has already incurred a severe high frequency hearing loss.

Hearing loss from noise is preventable by wearing hearing protectors. Hearing protectors are available in a variety of types and sizes and may be fitted by your medical department. Earmuffs are convenient and practical for intermittent exposures. Disposable earplugs called E-A-R-S are available and typically offer the most comfort. The best hearing protector, however, is the one that is worn.

Contact your medical department representative to arrange for you to get what you need. By following proper medical instruction on proper usage of hearing protection and using good common sense, your hearing will be saved.

Story by LCDR J. Saul, MSC, audiologist

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3. Professional Notes: Information on upcoming symposiums, conferences or courses of interest to Navy Medical Department personnel and wrap-ups on ones attended. Anyone with information to share in this section should contact the editor (see the last paragraph of this message on ways to do so).

Scheduled Meetings:

-- 17-20 June 1994, the first reunion of The American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen, Memphis, TN. For more information, contact HMCS Joe Havens, 3452 Highland Park Place, Memphis, TN 38111; (901) 324-5693.

-- 5 July 1994, 12-week Financial and Materiel Management Training Course begins. Contact CDR Dave Wynkoop, MSC, at (301) 295-0624, DSN 295-0624 for more information.

-- 9-16 July 1994, The Third National Kaiser Permanente Internal Medicine Conference, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Kapalua, Maui, HI. For information, contact Eric Tepper, MD, Internal Medicine, The Permanente Medical Group, 3400 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch, CA 94509; (510) 779-5211.

-- 11-22 July 1994, Operational and Preventive Medicine Course, NEPMU-5, San Diego. Call (619) 556-7086, DSN 526-7086 for information.

-- 25-29 July 1994, Eighth Annual Sports Medicine

conference, San Diego. For information, contact the University of California, Office of Continuing Medical Education, (619) 534-3940.

-- 1-12 August 1994, Operational Entomology Training, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact the DVECC Training Department at (904) 772-2424, DSN 942-2424, FAX (904) 779-0107.

-- 17-28 October 1994, Operational Entomology Training, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact the DVECC Training Department at (904) 772-2424, DSN 942-2424, FAX (904) 779-0107.

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HEADLINE: Annual Workshop Draws 1,700 Professionals

NEHC Norfolk, VA (NSMN) -- Close to 1,700 military and civilian occupational health, preventive medicine, environmental health, safety and other professionals from around the world were on site in Virginia Beach 24 February - 4 March for the 35th Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Workshop sponsored by the Navy Environmental Health Center. Attendees representing about 60 different specialties had the opportunity to choose from among a wide range of courses, concurrent sessions, round tables, specialty sessions, specialty meetings, professional development meetings, working groups, computer demonstrations and poster sessions featuring more than 300 speakers.

The conference theme, "Environment, Health, and Safety: Achieving the Balance," was reflected in the Opening Day Program on 28 February, when the Workshop formally commenced. The opening was highlighted by a keynote address by (then) Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Edward D. Martin, MD, and special presentations by the Navy Inspector General VADM David M. Bennett and Dr. Vincent T. Covello of the University of California, Berkeley.

Other workshop highlights included the Second Annual Woodward Lecture, given by Robert E. Shope, MD, of the Yale University School of Medicine, and an Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Awards Ceremony.

Awards and their winners, presented in the 1 March ceremony, were:

-- The Navy Environmental Health Center Commanding Officer's Award for Outstanding Support of Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine: CAPT Richard R. Hooper, MC, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD

-- The Ernest Brown Award for Excellence in Navy Occupational Health: LT Rachel D. Haltner, MSC, Naval Safety School, Norfolk

-- The Charles Stephenson Award for Excellence in Navy Preventive Medicine: LT Jeffrey T. Evans, MSC, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, CA, and HM2 Joseph M. Kozakiewicz, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam

-- The HMCM Stephen Brown Preventive Medicine Technician of the Year Award for Sustained Professional Excellence and Significant Contributions to the Navy and Marine Corps Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Program: HMC(SW/AW)

Raymond M. Bristol, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71); PMT of the Year Award Runner-up: HM1 Delores W. Skinner, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Camp Pendleton.

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4. Selected month of May observances and events occurring 21-31 May:

- Asian-Pacific Heritage Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- National High Blood Pressure Month
- National Sight-Saving Month
- Clean Air Month
- Older Americans Month -- "Aging: An Experience of a

Lifetime"

- 21 May: Armed Forces Day -- "Peace through Readiness"
- 23-29 May: National Park Week
- 24 May: VOTE! Idaho State Primary
- 24 May: VOTE! Kentucky State Primary
- 25 May: BUPERS Night Detailing until 2200 EDT
- 25 May: National Missing Children's Day
- 30 May: Memorial Day
- 31 May: VOTE! Arkansas State Primary
- 31 May: World No Tobacco Day
- 31 May: ENS FitReps Due

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HEADLINE: President Proclaims Older Americans Month

WHITE HOUSE Washington (NSMN) -- On 9 May, President Clinton proclaimed the month of May as "Older Americans Month." This year's Older Americans Month celebration centers around the theme of long life and good health with the slogan -- "Aging: An Experience of a Lifetime." The President asked all Americans to help make this theme a reality by striving to achieve healthy and productive lifestyles.

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HEADLINE: MC Among Firsts for Asian/Pacific Americans

CCK/NNS/BUMED Washington (NSMN) -- During the month of May, the Department of Defense recognizes the 16th annual celebration of Asian/Pacific Heritage. The theme for this year's celebration is "Asian/Pacific American -- Dedication, Dignity and Distinction."

Asian/Pacific Americans -- an ethnic group that includes Americans with Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Hmong Tribesman, Asian Indian, Polynesian or Melanesian heritage -- have served with distinction and many have given their lives to the service of their country.

Among the many notable Asian/Pacific Americans is a Navy medical corps officer, CAPT Godofredo L. Navarro, MC, USN. Navarro was the first Filipino-American to be in charge of a naval hospital. From 1989-1993, Navarro was the commanding officer of Naval Hospital Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

Navarro ranks not only as a first, but also a last -- he was the hospital's last commanding officer; it is now closed. Navarro is currently the Deputy Medical Inspector General, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Other military Asian/Pacific Americans of note are Fireman 1st Class Teleforo, who won the Medal of Honor in 1915; CAPT Tem E. Burgarin, who was the first Filipino-American to command a surface ship, USS Saginaw (LST 1188); and retired RADM Ming E. Chang, former commander of Cruiser Destroyer Group 2, who was awarded two Legions of Merit and a Bronze Star with Combat "V." Story includes information from the Navy News Service and the Naval Media Center's Captains Call Kit

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5. ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OR BENEFICIARY INTEREST (IN STORY FORMAT) BY TELEPHONE, FAX OR E-MAIL TO BUMED, ATTN: EDITOR, NAVAL SERVICE MEDICAL NEWS (MED 00P2). TELEPHONE (202) 653-0793; DSN 294-0793. FAX (202) 653-0086; DSN 294-0086. E-MAIL NMC0ENL@BUMED10.MED.NAVY.MIL.

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